



June 15, 2016

Myra Price
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 4502T
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Price,

I am writing to express our strong support of the Association of State Wetland Managers' (ASWM) Wetland Program Grant proposal entitled, **"Healthy Wetlands, Healthy Watersheds: Leveraging state wetland restoration and protection programs to improve watershed health."**

This proposed project responds directly to a growing need we have seen in our region and across the nation for the development of a collaborative framework to encourage integration of wetland programs into broader watershed, water quality, land use, conservation, ecological restoration, natural hazard and transportation efforts.

The ability to integrate wetland protection and restoration into other state program areas is limited by a lack of understanding of the co-benefits of holistic, watershed-based approaches. These mutual benefits are especially important to highlight as we collectively address climate change and try to do more with less resources.

Better access to technical information will help us advance wetland restoration and assist communities meet their clean water regulatory requirements, such as we have recently accomplished on Cape Cod where a pro-active salt marsh restoration project assisted two towns meet their pollution abatement targets.

We see ASWM as uniquely positioned to do this work because of their national perspective coupled with their strong relationships with individual state agencies. We plan to collaborate with ASWM in this project by serving on the interdisciplinary workgroup and offering a successful model of watershed-based restoration, protection and preservation.

We strongly endorse this proposal and hope that EPA will designate funding to move this project forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Purinton', is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Tim Purinton,
Director

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